



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 5832

LCO No. 3507



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Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY EXPENSE GRANT PROGRAMS
AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) A public institution of
2 higher education may establish an emergency expense grant program
3 to provide an emergency expense grant to any student who
4 experiences an unexpected financial hardship that impedes such
5 student's ability to complete his or her degree program. Such financial
6 hardship may include, but need not be limited to, expenses relating to
7 childcare, medical care or transportation expenses.

8 (b) Any student who is enrolled at a public institution of higher
9 education that has established an emergency expense grant program
10 under this section may receive an emergency expense grant by
11 submitting an application to the institution or through a nomination
12 on behalf of such student by an employee of the institution. An
13 application or nomination for an emergency expense grant shall
14 include (1) an explanation of the student's financial hardship, (2)
15 documentation substantiating the student's emergency expenses, and

16 (3) any other information the institution may require.

17 (c) Upon receipt of an application made by a student or a
18 nomination on behalf of a student made by an employee pursuant to
19 subsection (b) of this section, the public institution of higher education
20 may award an emergency expense grant to a student upon
21 determination that the financial hardship would impede the student's
22 ability to complete his or her degree.

23 (d) For purposes of establishing an emergency expense grant
24 program under this section, a public institution of higher education
25 may (1) accept private donations, (2) allocate state and certain other
26 institutional funds, as defined in section 10a-151f of the general
27 statutes, or (3) apply to the Office of Higher Education for a state
28 matching grant, in accordance with the provisions of section 2 of this
29 act.

30 (e) A public institution of higher education may apply to the Office
31 of Higher Education, in a manner prescribed by said office, for a state
32 matching grant to support the institution's emergency expense grant
33 program. In order to receive a state matching grant pursuant to section
34 2 of this act, a public institution of higher education shall maintain a
35 separate, nonlapsing emergency expense grant program account. The
36 institution shall deposit into such account (1) all private donations
37 accepted by the institution for the purpose of the emergency expense
38 grant program, (2) all state and certain other institutional funds
39 allocated by the institution for the purpose of the emergency expense
40 grant program, and (3) any state matching grant funds received
41 pursuant to section 2 of this act.

42 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) For purposes of an
43 emergency expense grant program established pursuant to section 1 of
44 this act, the Office of Higher Education shall, within available
45 appropriations and upon receipt of an application from a public
46 institution of higher education for a state matching grant, provide a
47 state matching grant to the public institution of higher education. In

48 any fiscal year, a state matching grant to a public institution of higher
 49 education shall be in an amount equal to the total funds deposited in
 50 such institution's emergency expense grant program account, as
 51 described in section 1 of this act, minus any funds remaining in such
 52 account from the prior fiscal year.

53 (b) In any fiscal year, the total amount of the state matching grants
 54 provided by the Office of Higher Education under this section shall not
 55 exceed five hundred thousand dollars. If, in any fiscal year, the total
 56 amount sought in all state matching grant applications submitted by
 57 the public institutions of higher education exceeds the amount
 58 available to the Office of Higher Education for the purpose of the
 59 emergency expense grant programs, all such matching grants shall be
 60 reduced on a pro rata basis.

61 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2019*) A public institution of higher
 62 education that receives matching grants pursuant to section 2 of this
 63 act shall, on or before July 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, submit a
 64 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
 65 statutes, to the Office of Higher Education and to the joint standing
 66 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 67 relating to higher education regarding (1) the number of emergency
 68 expense grant program applications received and awarded, (2) the
 69 average and total dollar amounts of the emergency expense grants
 70 requested and awarded, (3) the purposes for which the emergency
 71 expense grants were requested, (4) the rates of graduation of recipients
 72 of emergency expense grants and the general student body, and (5)
 73 any other information the Office of Higher Education deems necessary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2019</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To provide one-time emergency expense grants to students' who experience unexpected financial hardships that impede such students ability to complete their degree.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. TURCO, 27th Dist.

H.B. 5832